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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 PRS-01 PM-04 INR-07

/041 W
---------- 035906
R 181336Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 610

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9646

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR ET US
SUBJ: SENATE HEARINGS ON ETHIOPIA: ADDITIONAL REACTION

REF: ADDIS ABABA 9515 AND PREVIOUS

1. WE PICKED UP TWO ADDITONAL REACTIONS TO SCHAUFELE STATEMENT EVENING AUG 17, ONE FROM GETACHEW KIBRET, MOFA PERMANENT SECRETARY AND PRESENTLY ACTING FONMIN, THE OTHER FROM CAPT. FESSEHA GADDA, ASSISTANT TO LT. COL. ASRAT DESTA, CHARIMAN OF THE PMAC PUBLIC RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE.

2. GETACHEW TOLD ME HIS REACTION WAS "COMME-CI, CMME-CA" THEN ADDED THAT HE CONSIDERED IT A "FAIR/STATEMENT. HE ASKED WHETHER WE COULD PROVIDE HIM WITH A FULL TRANSCRIPT OF THE HEARINGS WHICH I TOLD HIM WE DID NOT HAVE AND MADE NO COMMITMENT TO OBTAIN.

3. FESSEHA TOLD PAO THAT ASRAT DESTA HAD BRIEFED TEFERI BANTE AND MAJ. MENGISTU ON SCHAUFELE STATEMENT. BOTH, ACCORDING FESSEHA, WERE "EXTREMELY PLEASED" WITH "FIRM-NESS" OF STATEMENT AND WITH THE ADMINISTRATIONS POSITION OF CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: GETACHEW'S COMMENT IS IN TOTAL KEEPING WITH HIS PERSONALITY AND PROBABLY WAS ABOUT AS FORTHCOMING AS
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HE CAN GET. FESSEHA'S COMMENTS ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO

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JUDGE SINCE HE MAY HAVE BEEN TELLING US WHAT HE THOUGHT WE WANTED TO HEAR. STILL, EVEN IF THE DIRG REACTION WAS SOMEWHAT LESS GLOWING THAN HE REPORTS, IT DOES TEND TO REAFFIRM OUR OWN FEELING THAT THEY WERE NOT DISPLEASED.
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